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FM THE SITUATION ROOM TDHAK 34

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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CITE WH37525

TDHAK 034

TO: LARRY EAGLEBURGER FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

DECEMBER 11, 1973

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER
FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM
SUBJECT: NOON REPORT

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SECFLER, MCFARLANE

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State Dept. review
completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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PRIME MINISTER MUJIB'S RECENT DECISION TO AMNESTY SOME 30,000 BANGLADESH NATIONALS WHOM HE HAD JAILED ON CHARGES OF AIDING PAKISTAN IN 1971 MAY HAVE HELPED SMOOTH THE WAY FOR A CONCILIATORY MOVE BY PAKISTAN. MUJIB HAS ALSO BEEN REPORTED LATELY AS POSSIBLY HAVING DROPPED HIS INSISTENCE ON PUTTING 195 PAKISTANI POWS ON TRIAL. ABANDONMENT BY MUJIB OF HIS PLANS FOR TRIALS, TOGETHER WITH PAKISTANI RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH, WOULD IN TURN REMOVE IMPORTANT OBSTACLES TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF CHINA'S CURRENTLY NON-EXISTENT RELATIONS WITH BANGLADESH.

BHUTTO'S PRINCIPAL RIGHT-WING OPPONENTS AT HOME, HOWEVER, HAVE REPORTEDLY STARTED REACTING TO RECOGNITION RUMORS BY INITIATING A DRIVE TO TURN CURRENT STUDENT UNREST INTO A CAMPAIGN AGAINST RECOGNIZING BANGLADESH. IN 1972, AN UPSURGE IN RIGHTIST AND STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS BLOCKED WHAT APPEARED TO BE MOVEMENT BY BHUTTO TOWARD RECOGNITION, AND THE SAME THING COULD HAPPEN AGAIN. PAKISTAN'S GENERAL POPULACE PROBABLY WOULD ACCEPT RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH WITH RELATIVE EQUANIMITY, BUT THE WELL-ORGANIZED RIGHT-WING PARTY THAT DOMINATES STUDENT POLITICAL CIRCLES REMAINS ACTIVELY OPPOSED TO RECOGNITION. (APPELBAUM/SAUNDERS)

ZAIRIAN OFFSHORE OIL: AN INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM, OF WHICH GULF OIL IS A 50 PERCENT OWNER, HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL BEGIN PETROLEUM PRODUCTION FROM ZAIRIAN OFFSHORE WELLS IN MID-1975. THE CONSORTIUM CONFIRMED THAT PRODUCTION WILL BE FEASIBLE AT AN ANTICIPATED INITIAL RATE OF 25,000 BARRELS PER DAY. INVESTMENT TO DATE HAS BEEN \$25 MILLION, AND IT IS PRESENTLY ESTIMATED THAT AN ADDITIONAL \$75 MILLION WILL BE INVESTED IN 1974 AND 1975. (HORAN)

NIGERIAN OIL: ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS THE NIGERIAN COMMISSIONER OF MINES AND POWER HAS INDICATED NIGERIA WILL NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE ARAB EMBARGO BY INCREASING ITS CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION. HE IS QUOTED AS ADDING THAT NIGERIA "WOULD NOT ON ANY CONDITION SELL HER OIL TO ANY COUNTRY TO WHICH OUR GOVERNMENT WAS NOT KINDLY DISPOSED." OUR EMBASSY IN LAGOS BELIEVES THESE AND SIMILAR REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO THE COMMISSIONER CONFIRM THAT NIGERIA WILL MAKE CRUDE AVAILABLE TO ALL DESTINATIONS EXCEPT SOUTHERN AFRICA, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES. NIGERIA IS A MAJOR FOREIGN SOURCE OF OUR CRUDE OIL, RANKING WITH CANADA, VENEZUELA AND SAUDI ARABIA. (HORAN)

SIHANOUK COMMENTS: REVERSING A STATEMENT OF NOVEMBER 11, PRINCE SIHANOUK REPORTEDLY CALLED AFP ON DECEMBER 8, CLAIMING HE WILL RETURN TO CAMBODIA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER HIS

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MOTHER'S RECOVERY. (STEARMAN/ADAMS)

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN CAMBODIA: CHARGE ENDERS HAS REPORTED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER LONG BORET PROBABLY WILL BE NAMED AS THE NEW PREMIER REPLACING THE INEFFECTUAL IN TAM WHO SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION LAST WEEK. THE NEW CABINET IS EXPECTED TO BE SMALLER AND MORE AUTONOMOUS OF LON NOL THAN PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS. ENDERS IS HOPEFUL THAT THE GOVERNMENT ALSO WILL BE MORE EFFECTIVE. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENTS, ENDERS HAS AGAIN NOTED LON NOL'S CONTINUING DESIRE IN FOREIGN TRAVEL OR TREATMENT AND SIRIK MATAK'S NEW INTEREST IN ASSUMING THE VICE PRESIDENCY. (STEARMAN/ADAMS)

VENEZUELAN ELECTIONS: THE GOVERNMENT OPPOSITION DEMOCRATIC ACTION (AD) PARTY LAST NIGHT CLAIMED VICTORY FOR ITS CANDIDATE CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ. FOUR OTHER CANDIDATES HAVE CONCEDED SUNDAY'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION TO PEREZ, HOWEVER, HIS CHIEF OPPONENT OF THE GOVERNING SOCIAL CHRISTIAN (COPEI) PARTY, LORENZO FERNANDEZ HAS THUS FAR MAINTAINED SILENCE. EMBASSY CARACAS REPORTS THAT IT CONTINUES TO RECEIVE NUMEROUS INDICATIONS THAT COPEI PARTY LEADERS ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC OVER THE APPARENT TREND OF THE VOTE-COUNT AND ARE PRIVATELY CONCEDED VICTORY TO PEREZ; AND BELIEVE THAT IF PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE BORNE OUT PEREZ WILL WIN THE ELECTION BY A CONSIDERABLE MARGIN.

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